

Examiner's Amendment

An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

In claim 14, last line, --, and means for bypassing the combustion chamber and routing the cooling air part-stream toward the rotor-- has been inserted after "inner wall".

In claim 21, the dependency has been changed from "14" to --15--.

In claim 22, the dependency has been changed from "14" to --15--, and in line 2, "the hollow supporting element" has been replaced by --at least one of the hollow supporting elements--.

In claim 24, the dependency has been changed from "14" to --18--.

Claim 28 has been canceled as directed to a non-elected invention in an election made without traverse (see response of 11/25/08).

Comment On Allowance

When combined with the other claimed features, the above amendment to independent claim 14 is considered sufficient to distinguish the present invention from the

Art Unit: 3741

previously cited Brookman Patent, which is the closest prior art of record. Note that the air stream captured by the opening in Brookman's annular distribution device (components 12 and 32) is conducted to Brookman's combustion chamber via passage 34, whereas, the amended claims now include means for bypassing the combustion chamber and routing the air stream from the distribution device to the rotor of the claimed turbine engine.

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If repeated attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the art unit supervisor, Michael Cuff, can be reached at 571-272-6778.

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